

6. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE

6.1 OVERVIEW

1,4-Dioxane has been identified in at least 27 of the 1,647 hazardous waste sites that have been proposed for inclusion on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL) (HazDat 2004). However, the number of sites evaluated for 1,4-dioxane is not known. The frequency of these sites can be seen in Figure 6-1. Of these sites, 27 are located within the United States and none are located in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (not shown).

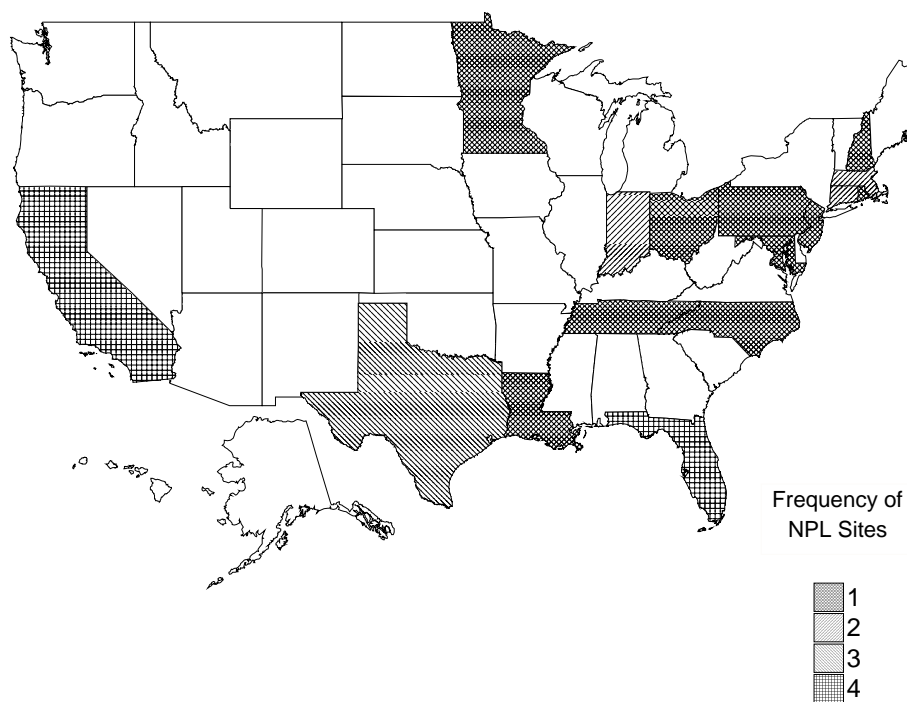
1,4-Dioxane is released into the environment during its production, the processing of other chemicals, its use, and with its unintentional formation during the manufacture of ethoxylated surfactants (EC 2002). In the past, 1,4-dioxane was released into the environment with its use as a stabilizer for 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Since the use of TCA has been discontinued, current releases from this source are expected to be very low.

1,4-Dioxane is expected to volatilize from the surfaces of water and soil. In air, it is subject to photooxidation with an estimated half-life of 1–3 days. 1,4-Dioxane does not undergo biodegradation in water and soils. It absorbs weakly to soil and will move quickly into groundwater. Bioconcentration, bioaccumulation, and biomagnification are not important for 1,4-dioxane.

Current levels of 1,4-dioxane in the environment are unavailable. Historical data (i.e., 1980s or earlier) suggest that ambient levels were 0.1–0.4 µg/m³ in air and 1 µg/L in water. Higher concentrations of 1,4-dioxane have been observed primarily in groundwaters.

The general population is exposed to negligible levels of 1,4-dioxane. The primary routes of human exposure to 1,4-dioxane are inhalation of 1,4-dioxane in air, ingestion of contaminated food and drinking water containing 1,4-dioxane, and dermal contact with contaminated consumer products (e.g., products containing ethoxylated surfactants). Because 1,4-dioxane may be found in tap water, human exposure to 1,4-dioxane may also occur during activities such as showering, bathing, and laundering. Exposure to 1,4-dioxane in tap water through inhalation during showering or other indoor activities can result in

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Figure 6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with 1,4-Dioxane Contamination

Derived from HazDat 2004

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higher exposures to 1,4-dioxane compared to ingestion of drinking water. Occupational exposure occurs during the production, processing, and use of 1,4-dioxane, which results in inhalation or dermal exposure.

6.2 RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT

1,4-Dioxane is released into the environment during its production, processing, use, and with its unintentional formation during the manufacture of ethoxylated surfactants (EC 2002). In the past, 1,4-dioxane was released into the environment with its use as a stabilizer for TCA. Since the use of TCA has been discontinued, current releases from this source are expected to be very low.

1,4-Dioxane is unintentionally formed as an impurity during the manufacture of alkyl ether sulphates (AES) and other ethoxylated substances. However, much of the 1,4-dioxane impurity in these chemicals is removed through a stripping process during their manufacture. The stripper condensates from the manufacturing processes are discharged through normal plant effluents where they are diluted by other waste streams, and discharged as industrial wastes (NICNAS 1998). 1,4-Dioxane remaining as a by-product in end-use products (a large percentage of which may be used in domestic detergents and personal care products) will be released to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) along with the surfactants, although this release will be far more diffuse.

According to the TRI, a total of 182,505 pounds (82,957 kg) of 1,4-dioxane were released to the environment in 2002. In addition, an estimated 964,136 pounds (307,877 kg) were transferred off-site, including to POTWs (TRI02 2004). The TRI data should be used with caution because only certain types of facilities are required to report. This is not an exhaustive list. Since 1988, total on-site releases of 1,4-dioxane appear to be decreasing from a high of 1,234,968 pounds (560,173 kg) in 1993 to a low of 182,505 pounds (82,957 kg) in 2002.

6.2.1 Air

1,4-Dioxane may be released to air during its production, the processing of other chemicals (e.g., pharmaceuticals/pesticides), and its use (EC 2002). The total emissions of 1,4-dioxane from stationary sources in California are estimated to be at least 210,000 pounds per year, based on data reported under the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program (California ARB 1997).

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No further information was located on the emissions of 1,4-dioxane to air.

The estimated release of 105,484 pounds (47,947 kg) of 1,4-dioxane to the atmosphere in 2002 accounted for about 57.8% of the estimated total on-site releases to the environment (TRI02 2004). These releases are summarized in Table 6-1. The data from the TRI listed in Table 6-1 should be used with caution, however, since only certain types of facilities are required to report (EPA 1995). This is not a comprehensive list.

1,4-Dioxane has been identified in air samples collected at 6 of the 1,647 NPL hazardous waste sites, where it was detected in some environmental media (HazDat 2004). The maximum concentration was 1,476 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

6.2.2 Water

1,4-Dioxane may be released to surface water and groundwater during its production, the processing of other chemicals, its use, and with its unintentional formation during the manufacture of ethoxylated surfactants (EC 2002).

1,4-Dioxane was detected at 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ in effluents from the North Side and Calumet sewage treatment plants on the Lake Michigan Basin (Konasewich et al. 1978). 1,4-Dioxane has been observed in discharges into Lake Michigan near Chicago in 1977 (Konasewich et al. 1978) and in the Haw River in North Carolina (Dietrich et al. 1988). However, no information about the concentration of 1,4-dioxane or detection limit was provided in these sources.

Effluent of a sewage treatment plant discharging into the River Lee (United Kingdom) contained <1 ng/L in 8-hour mixed samples (EC 2002). Effluent of a sewage treatment plant from a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) manufacturing process contained 100 mg/L of 1,4-dioxane in 1995 (EC 2002).

In Kanagawa prefecture, Japan, Abe (1999) reported that 1,4-dioxane concentrations in effluents from chemical plants that used the compound as a solvent ranged from 0.4 to 4,020 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, the combined collection treatments of apartment houses, and river basin sewage systems were 0.8–46, and 1.0–97 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, respectively. No further data were located for emissions of 1,4-dioxane to water.

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Table 6-1. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use 1,4-Dioxane^a

State ^c	RF ^d	Reported amounts released in pounds per year ^b							
		Air ^e	Water ^f	UI ^g	Land ^h	Other ⁱ	Total release		On- and off-site
							On-site ^j	Off-site ^k	
AL	1	1,382	0	0	0	0	1,382	0	1,382
AR	2	5,516	0	0	0	0	5,516	0	5,516
CA	2	614	No data	0	0	0	614	0	614
CO	1	595	No data	0	0	0	595	0	595
GA	1	2,169	No data	0	0	0	2,169	0	2,169
IL	3	13,307	0	0	41	31	13,309	70	13,379
LA	4	3,834	14,658	0	3	0	18,492	3	18,495
MN	1	2,440	No data	0	0	0	2,440	0	2,440
MO	2	28	20	0	0	0	48	0	48
MS	1	619	5	0	0	0	624	0	624
NC	4	27,905	18,225	0	1,921	2	48,030	29	48,059
NE	1	6	No data	0	0	0	6	0	6
NY	1	1,183	2,700	0	0	2	3,883	2	3,885
OH	1	250	0	0	255	0	250	255	505
OR	1	104	No data	0	250	0	104	250	354
PR	1	1,700	No data	0	4	0	1,700	4	1,704
SC	9	19,798	17,766	14,711	2,341	0	37,564	17,052	54,616
TN	2	14,194	19,980	0	0	0	34,174	0	34,174
TX	3	7,470	783	946,471	0	0	8,253	946,471	954,724
VA	1	93	No data	0	0	0	93	0	93
WI	2	10	No data	0	0	0	10	0	10
WV	4	2,267	982	0	0	0	3,249	0	3,249
Total	48	105,484	75,119	961,182	4,815	35	182,505	964,136	1,146,641

Source: TRI02 2004 (Data are from 2002)

^aThe TRI data should be used with caution since only certain types of facilities are required to report. This is not an exhaustive list. Data are rounded to nearest whole number.^bData in TRI are maximum amounts released by each facility.^cPost office state abbreviations are used.^dNumber of reporting facilities.^eThe sum of fugitive and point source releases are included in releases to air by a given facility.^fSurface water discharges, wastewater treatment-(metals only), and publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) (metal and metal compounds).^gClass I wells, Class II-V wells, and underground injection.^hResource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) subtitle C landfills; other on-site landfills, land treatment, surface impoundments, other land disposal, other landfills.ⁱStorage only, solidification/stabilization (metals only), other off-site management, transfers to waste broker for disposal, unknown.^jThe sum of all releases of the chemical to air, land, water, and underground injection wells.^kTotal amount of chemical transferred off-site, including to POTWs.

RF = reporting facilities; UI = underground injection

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The estimated release of 75,119 pounds (34,145 kg) of 1,4-dioxane to surface water in 2002 accounted for about 41.2% of the estimated total on-site releases to the environment (TRI02 2004). These releases are summarized in Table 6-1. The data from the TRI listed in Table 6-1 should be used with caution, however, since only certain types of facilities are required to report (EPA 1995). This is not a comprehensive list.

1,4-Dioxane has been identified in surface water and groundwater samples, collected at 5 and 13 sites, respectively, of the 1,647 NPL hazardous waste sites, where it was detected in some environmental media (HazDat 2004). The maximum concentrations were 14 µg/L in surface water and 730 µg/L in groundwater.

6.2.3 Soil

1,4-Dioxane may be released to soil during its production, the processing of other chemicals, its use, and with its unintentional formation during the manufacture of ethoxylated surfactants (EC 2002).

Between 1976 and 1985, Pall Life Sciences' (PLS) predecessor, Gelman Sciences in Ann Arbor, Michigan disposed of large quantities of waste water containing 1,4-dioxane on soil in a holding pond and through a waste injection well. 1,4-Dioxane was used as a solvent for cellulose acetate, a component of micro-porous filters. This chemical contaminated soil and rock layers and seeped into the groundwater. Disposal of this chemical in this way was stopped in 1986 (City of Ann Arbor 2003; MSU 2001). No further data were located for emissions of 1,4-dioxane to soil.

The estimated release of 4,815 pounds (2,189 kg) of 1,4-dioxane to land in 2002 accounted for about 2.7% of the estimated total on-site releases to the environment (TRI02 2004). These releases are summarized in Table 6-1. The data from the TRI listed in Table 6-1 should be used with caution, however, since only certain types of facilities are required to report (EPA 1995). This is not a comprehensive list.

1,4-Dioxane has been identified in soil samples, collected at 6 of the 1,647 NPL hazardous waste sites, where it was detected in some environmental media (HazDat 2004). Quantitative data are not available.

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6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FATE

1,4-Dioxane is expected to volatilize at a moderate rate from water and soil surfaces. In air, it is subject to photooxidation with an estimated half-life of 1–3 days. 1,4-Dioxane is relatively resistant to biodegradation in water and soils. It binds weakly to soils and will therefore move readily into groundwater. Bioconcentration, bioaccumulation, and biomagnification are not significant for 1,4-dioxane.

6.3.1 Transport and Partitioning

The Henry's law constant for 1,4-dioxane is 4.8×10^{-6} atm m³/mole which indicates that 1,4-dioxane is expected to volatilize from water surfaces (Park et al. 1987; Thomas 1990). Based on this Henry's law constant, the volatilization half-life from a model river (1 m deep, flowing 1 m/second, wind velocity of 3 m/second) is estimated as 5 days. The volatilization half-life from a model lake (1 m deep, flowing 0.05 m/second, wind velocity of 0.5 m/sec) is estimated as 56 days (EPA 2000). The Henry's law constant for 1,4-dioxane also indicates that volatilization from moist soil surfaces may occur. The potential for volatilization of 1,4-dioxane from dry soil surfaces may exist based upon a vapor pressure of 38.1 mm Hg (Daubert and Danner 1985).

According to a classification scheme, an estimated K_{oc} value of 17 suggests that 1,4-dioxane is expected to have very high mobility in soil (Swann et al. 1983). This estimated K_{oc} value is calculated using a log K_{ow} of -0.27 and a regression-derived equation (Hansch et al. 1995; Thomas 1990). In the absence of significant degradation processes for 1,4-dioxane (see Section 6.3.2), 1,4-dioxane is susceptible to leaching from soil into groundwater. In clay soils, 1,4-dioxane will not be adsorbed because of any specific interaction with the surface of clay minerals. However, 1,4-dioxane can get trapped in the interfacial region of clay soils due to its strong interaction with water molecules. This may result in a lower than expected mobility for 1,4-dioxane in clay soils (Zhang et al. 1990). Groundwater retardation factors (R_f) for 1,4-dioxane range from 1.0 to 1.6. These values indicate that 1,4-dioxane is expected to be a mobile compound (e.g., R_f for chloride=1.0, which is indicative of no retardation) in groundwater (Priddle and Jackson 1991).

According to a classification scheme, a bioconcentration factor (BCF) value of 3 for 1,4-dioxane suggests the potential for bioconcentration in aquatic organisms is low (Franke et al. 1994). This estimated BCF (the BCF is the concentration of the chemical in fish tissues over concentration of chemical in water) was

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calculated using a log K_{ow} of -0.27 and a regression-derived equation (Hansch et al. 1995; Meylan et al. 1999). The results of an experimental bioconcentration study also reported very low BCF values (e.g., 0.2–0.7) for 1,4-dioxane (EC 2002). Therefore, bioconcentration, bioaccumulation, and biomagnification are unlikely to be significant for 1,4-dioxane.

6.3.2 Transformation and Degradation

6.3.2.1 Air

The primary loss mechanism for 1,4-dioxane in the atmosphere is photooxidation with OH radicals, while photolysis, reaction with ozone molecules, and reaction with nitrate radicals are insignificant in comparison (Grosjean 1990). The rate constant for OH radical photooxidation of 1,4-dioxane is 1.09×10^{-11} cm³/molecule-sec (Atkinson 1989). Using OH radical concentrations of 0.5×10^6 – 1.5×10^6 OH radicals/cm³ and a 12-hour day, the atmospheric half-lives for 1,4-dioxane are 2.9 and 1.0 days, respectively. Reaction products from OH radical photooxidation are 2-oxodioxane (or c-C₄H₇O₂). The lifetime of this alkyl radical, 2-oxodioxane in air at 1 atm is 0.02 microsecond with respect to the addition of O₂ to give the corresponding peroxy radical (c-C₄H₇O₂)O₂. These radicals react rapidly ($t_{1/2}$ =6 minutes based on NO concentration of 2.5×10^8 molecules/cm³) with NO to produce NO₂ and by inference (c-C₄H₇O₂)O alkoxy radicals. The sole atmospheric fate of this alkoxy radical is decomposition *via* C-C bond scission leading to the formation of ethylene glycol diformate (Platz et al. 1997). There are no known reactions for the *in situ* formation of 1,4-dioxane in the atmosphere (Grosjean 1990).

6.3.2.2 Water

Since 1,4-dioxane does not have functional groups that are susceptible to hydrolysis (Wolfe and Jeffers 2000), hydrolysis of 1,4-dioxane is not expected to occur in the environment. Since 1,4-dioxane does not adsorb light in the environmental spectrum (i.e., >290 nm), 1,4-dioxane is not expected to undergo direct photolysis in aqueous media. 1,4-Dioxane may undergo indirect photolysis by aqueous hydroxyl radicals near the water surface. The half-life for this reaction is 336 days at pH 7 (Anbar and Neta 1967). However, the extent of this reaction of OH radicals with 1,4-dioxane is unknown in the environment.

1,4-Dioxane has been found to be resistant to biodegradation (Alexander 1973; Dow Chemical Co. 1989; Fincher and Payne 1962; Heukelekian and Rand 1955; Mills and Stack 1954). Results of a biological oxygen demand (BOD) test for 1,4-dioxane indicate that negligible oxygen was consumed over a 20-day

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test period (Swope and Kenna 1950). Mills and Stack (1954) noted that degradation of 1,4-dioxane was not observed in cultures of sewage microorganisms exposed for 1 year to waste water treatment plant effluents adjusted to contain 1,4-dioxane at concentrations ranging from 100 to 900 mg/L. In a different study, microorganisms present in either municipal or industrial activated sludge were unable to degrade 1,4-dioxane during 2 days of continuous exposure to concentrations ranging from 10 to 100 mg/L (Dow Chemical Co. 1989). Accordingly, it appears that 1,4-dioxane will not undergo significant degradation in conventional biological treatment systems. Thus, 1,4-dioxane has been classified as not readily biodegradable and it is not expected to rapidly biodegrade in the environment (Kawasaki 1980; Lyman et al. 1982).

Acclimated microbial cultures may be capable of degrading 1,4-dioxane under certain conditions. Roy et al. (1994) investigated the biodegradability of 1,4-dioxane in industrial wastes using microorganisms obtained from acclimated industrial waste. These authors found that pure 1,4-dioxane and industrial wastes containing 1,4-dioxane are biodegradable. Following a 10-day lag period, complete degradation of 150 mg/L of 1,4-dioxane was observed after 32 days of treatment using an electrolytic respirometer cell. However, partial degradation of 1,4-dioxane was observed at higher concentrations, which may result from the build up of intermediates inhibitory to the biodegradation process (Roy et al. 1994, 1995). Zenker et al. (2000) reported that a mixed microbial culture enriched from a 1,4-dioxane contaminated aquifer was capable of aerobically degrading 1,4-dioxane in the presence of tetrahydrofuran (THF). No biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane was observed in the absence of THF and the measured cell yield was similar during degradation of 1,4-dioxane with THF or with THF alone. This suggests that 1,4-dioxane was biodegraded via a co-metabolic process (i.e., transformation of a non-growth substance [1,4-dioxane] in the presence of a growth substrate [THF] or another transformable compound).

Zenker et al. (1999) reported that a mixed microbial culture enriched from a 1,4-dioxane contaminated soil was capable of aerobically degrading 1,4-dioxane in the presence of THF. 1,4-Dioxane and THF were added to the soil microcosm at a concentration of 200 mg/L under enhanced conditions, which included incubation at 35 °C and the addition of nitrogen, phosphorus, and trace minerals. Both 1,4-dioxane and THF were completely degraded within 100 days, while 1,4-dioxane alone degraded completely after 300 days of incubation. Microcosms incubated under ambient conditions exhibited no biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane or THF (Zenker et al. 1999).

Kelley et al. (2001) investigated the potential to enhance 1,4-dioxane biodegradation in both planted and unplanted soil, by adding the 1,4-dioxane-degrading actinomycete, *Amycolata sp.* CB1190. 1,4-Dioxane

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was not removed within 120 days in sterile controls or in viable microcosms not amended with CB1190. Popular root extract (40 mg/L as chemical oxygen demand [COD]) stimulated 1,4-dioxane degradation in bioaugmented soil, and 100 mg/L of 1,4-dioxane was removed within 45 days. Other co-substrates that enhanced 1,4-dioxane degradation by CB1190 included THF and 1-butanol, while glucose and soil extract did not affect 1,4-dioxane degradation (Kelley et al. 2001). While long-term enrichments eventually yield cultures of CB1190 that are able capable of growth on 1,4-dioxane alone, THF appears to be the preferred growth substrate for CB1190 (Parales et al. 1994).

6.3.2.3 Sediment and Soil

No information was located on the transformation and degradation of 1,4-dioxane in soils and sediment. However, based on studies in aqueous systems, it is expected that 1,4-dioxane will be largely resistant to biodegradation in soils and sediments.

6.3.2.4 Other Media

Pure 1,4-dioxane is known to react with molecular oxygen at ambient temperatures to form peroxides and hydroperoxides in the course of long-term storage and handling (Howard and Ingold 1969). Peroxides are formed primarily with exposure to air and UV light. Formate esters are formed from subsequent transformations of peroxides and hydroperoxides by way of free-radical mechanisms (Jewett and Lawless 1980).

6.4 LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Recent information on the levels of 1,4-dioxane in the ambient environment are unavailable. Historical data (i.e., 1980s or earlier) suggest that ambient levels were 0.1–0.4 µg/m³ in air and 1 µg/L in water. Higher concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in groundwaters have been observed in aquifers contaminated with TCA.

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6.4.1 Air

Recent information on the ambient levels of 1,4-dioxane in air is unavailable. Because the use of 1,4-dioxane has declined in recent years, current levels of 1,4-dioxane in the ambient air are likely to be less than levels reported in the 1980s or in earlier periods. In 1984, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane ranged from 0.1–0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in ambient air sampled from the United States. No information was provided in this source on the locations where the air sampling occurred (EC 2002). In the early to mid 1980s, the mean ambient levels of 1,4-dioxane in indoor and outdoor air were measured as part of the VOC National Ambient Database in the United States (Shah and Singh 1988). The mean concentrations of 1,4-dioxane were 1.029 ppbv or 3.704 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (n=585; median, 0.000 ppbv) and 0.107 ppbv or 0.385 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (n=617; median, 0.000 ppbv) in indoor and outdoor air, respectively. 1,4-Dioxane was detected in outdoor air samples from the United States between 1981 and 1984 (detection limit unspecified). In the winter of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 67% of outdoor air samples from Los Angeles communities (n=25) at a median concentration of 0.27 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In the summer of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 22% of outdoor air samples from Los Angeles communities (n=23) at a median concentration of 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In the summer of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 20% of outdoor air samples from Antioch/West Pittsburg, California (n=10) at a median concentration of 0.03 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Pellizzari et al. 1986). Between 1979 and 1984, the mean concentration of 1,4-dioxane in ambient air was 0.44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (range, 0–30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; detected in 187 of 533 samples) in samples collected from 12 unspecified urban /suburban locations in the United States (EPA 1993).

In the summer of 1981 (July 6–August 16), the geometric mean concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in air near three industrialized urban areas (i.e., Newark, Elizabeth, and Camden, New Jersey) of the United States were 0.01 (21 of 38 samples positive), 0.02 (15 of 38 samples positive), and 0.005 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (21 of 35 samples positive), respectively (Harkov et al. 1983). The three same sites were also sampled from January 18–February 26, 1982. The geometric means of these samples ranged from 0 to 0.01 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; 20% of samples were positive with a maximum value of 5.31 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Harkov et al. 1984; EC 2002). Two ambient air samples taken in New Jersey were reported to contain 1,4-dioxane (Harkov et al. 1985). In 1983, near the Kramer Landfill in New Jersey, ambient air sampled contained 1,4-dioxane at a geometric mean concentration of 0.01 ppbv or 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (maximum, 0.09 ppbv or 0.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). In 1982, at an urban/industrial site in Newark, New Jersey, ambient air contained 1,4-dioxane at a geometric mean concentration of 0.01 ppbv or 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (n=26; maximum, 1.45 ppbv or 5.22 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). At various landfills in the United States, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in landfill gas was reported to be 0.62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 0.33 g/m^3 (EC 2002).

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In the early to mid 1980s, the mean ambient levels of 1,4-dioxane in indoor air were measured as part of the VOC National Ambient Database in the United States (Shah and Singh 1988). The mean concentration of 1,4-dioxane in indoor air was 1.029 ppbv or 3.704 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($n=585$; median, 0.000 ppbv). 1,4-Dioxane was detected in indoor air samples from the United States between 1981 and 1984 (detection limit unspecified). In the winter of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 64% of indoor air samples from Los Angeles communities ($n=25$) at a median concentration of 0.26 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In the summer of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 17% of indoor air samples from Los Angeles communities ($n=23$) at a median concentration of 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In the summer of 1984, 1,4-dioxane was detected in 10% of indoor air samples from Antioch/West Pittsburg, California ($n=10$) at a median concentration of 0.07 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Pellizzari et al. 1986). In a multi-national survey taken between 1978 and 1990, mean 1,4-dioxane levels were 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in indoor air samples taken from buildings (i.e., schools and offices) with unspecified complaints (Brown et al. 1994). In June of 1990, 125 households in Woodland, California were monitored for a variety of toxic air contaminants. Approximately 21% of the indoor samples collected contained measurable amounts of 1,4-dioxane. The average concentration of 1,4-dioxane was below the quantifiable limit of 0.11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and the measurements ranged from below the quantifiable limit to 140 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (California ARB 1997).

6.4.2 Water

Recent information on the concentration levels of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater, surface water, and drinking water are limited. However, because the use of 1,4-dioxane has declined in recent years, current levels of 1,4-dioxane in the aqueous media are likely to be less than levels reported in the 1980s or in earlier periods.

In the 1970s, municipal water supplies in the United States were reported to contain 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ of 1,4-dioxane (Kraybill 1978); however, the frequency of this level was not provided. In a drinking water well in Massachusetts, a concentration of 2,100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ was reported (Burmaster 1982). However, this well appears to be contaminated. In six drinking water wells (37% of samples) near a solid waste landfill located 60 miles southwest of Wilmington, Delaware, two wells were found to contain 0.1 and 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ 1,4-dioxane, but no 1,4-dioxane was detectable in the finished drinking water in the municipality using that well field (DeWalle and Chian 1981). Concentrations in private wells ranged from 0.001–1 to 200 mg/L (from 1–1,000 to 200,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$). The concentration of 1,4-dioxane in five wells near Circleville, Ohio ranged from <1 to 360 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ after contamination of groundwater following treatment of

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industrial waste water (Hartung 1989). Drinking water from the Netherlands contained 1,4-dioxane at a concentration of 0.5 µg/L (EC 2002).

1,4-Dioxane was determined at 1.1–109 µg/L in contaminated groundwater in California (Draper et al. 2000). Extensive groundwater contamination (<0.01–220 mg/L or <10–220,000 µg/L) with more limited surface water contamination (<0.01–0.29 mg/L or <10–290 µg/L) resulted from treatment of industrial waste water in an unlined oxidation lagoon in Ann Arbor, Michigan (DeRosa et al. 1996). Current levels of 1,4-dioxane were about 1 µg/L in eight groundwater wells located in the vicinity of this site. However, the number of non-detects was not provided in this source (Michigan DEQ 2004). 1,4-Dioxane was discovered in groundwater at more than 250 ppm (mg/L) at a San Jose, California solvent recycling facility in 1998. In a survey of TCA release sites in California, it was found that 1,4-dioxane was present in a majority of these sites (concentrations unspecified) (Mohr 2004). At the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Menlo Park, California, the occurrence of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater is closely associated with TCA and its abiotic degradation product, 1,1-dichloroethane. It was found at this location at a maximum concentration of 7,300 ppb (Mohr 2004). Leachates from wells located near low level radioactive waste disposal sites contained 1,4-dioxane, but no quantitative data were presented (Francis et al. 1980). Between 1983 and 1986, 1,4-dioxane was detected in groundwater near three landfills in Canada at concentrations <1 µg/L (EC 2002). In groundwater beneath a landfill, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane was 500 µg/L at a site in Canada sampled in 1982 (EC 2002).

In 1982, 1,4-dioxane was detected in samples of river water from the Haw River in North Carolina, which flows through an industrialized section of the North Carolina Piedmont (Dietrich et al. 1988). However, no information on the levels of 1,4-dioxane in these samples were reported by the authors. 1,4-Dioxane at 1 µg/L was detected in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Channel in the Lake Michigan basin (Konasewich et al. 1978). Surface water from the provincial area of Drente in the Netherlands contained 1,4-dioxane at concentrations ranging from 1 to 10 µg/L (EC 2002). At five different locations near the banks of the Rhine River in Germany, surface water contained <10 µg/L 1,4-dioxane in 1996 (EC 2002). River water collected from an unspecified river in the United Kingdom contained 1,4-dioxane, but no quantitative data were presented (Gelman Sciences 1989c). Dioxane concentrations in river water ranged from <0.024 to 0.69 µg/L in Kitakyushu, Japan (Kawata et al. 2003) and from 0.1 to 16 µg/L in Kanagawa, Japan (Abe 1999). The Japanese Ministry of the Environment reported that 1,4-dioxane in river and coastal waters ranged from <0.08 to 46 µg/L at 34–35 sites in Japan during fiscal year 1997–1999 (Kawata et al. 2003). 1,4-Dioxane was detected in surface water samples from 11 of 19 sites from Niigata, Japan at concentrations ranging from <0.03 to 0.39 µg/L (Kawata et al. 2003).

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During the period of 1988–1991, the maximum concentration of 1,4-dioxane detected at Superfund sites in 21 states was 10 µg/L (Canter and Sabatinti 1994). 1,4-Dioxane ranged in concentration from 1.1 to 109 µg/L in leachate from hazardous waste disposal sites in Japan (Yasuhara et al. 1997). In 2000–2001, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in leachate from a closed hazardous waste landfill in Japan ranged from 0.16 to 0.50 µg/L. At an open hazardous waste landfill, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in leachate ranged from 0.91 to 10.6 µg/L (Yasuhara et al. 2003). At these landfills, waste plastics were disposed after either incineration, or crushing and pressing under heat. The heating process appears to have resulted in the formation of 1,4-dioxane, although a mechanism for this process was not provided (Yasuhara et al. 2003). The concentration of 1,4-dioxane in landfill leachates from eight hazardous disposal sites in Japan ranged from 1.100 to 109 µg/L (median, 3.900 µg/L) (Yasuhara et al. 1997). In May 1988, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in an outwash aquifer near the Gloucester Hazardous Waste Landfill (Ottawa, Canada) ranged from ~300 to 2,000 µg/L with a 13% frequency of detection (detection limit=150 µg/L) (Lesage et al. 1990). The concentrations of 1,4-dioxane was reported to be 11, 8, and 36 µg/L in landfill leachates sampled from three municipal landfills in Göteborg, Sweden (Paxéus 2000).

In an industrial/urban area of Japan (i.e., Kanagawa prefecture), the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in river water ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 µg/L during the period of 1996–1998; and ranged from 0.2 to 0.4 µg/L in groundwater during the period of 1995–1997 (Abe 1999). High concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in polluted groundwater from this area ranged from <0.1 (not detected) to 52 µg/L and were correlated with TCA contamination of groundwater (Abe 1999). Romero et al. (1998) measured the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in industrial waste waters from producers of polyester resins in Barcelona, Spain. The polymer resins were polymerized using different glycols in acid catalyzed condensation reactions. In these waste water samples, 1,4-dioxane was detected at a mean concentration of 6,400 µg/L (range, <100–31,400 µg/L) and a frequency of 48.6% (Romero et al. 1998).

6.4.3 Sediment and Soil

No quantitative data were located on the concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in sediments or soil.

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6.4.4 Other Environmental Media

There have been no systematic studies designed to determine the levels of 1,4-dioxane in foods. However, 1,4-dioxane has been detected in some foods, which may indicate that 1,4-dioxane may be a natural constituent. 1,4-Dioxane was found in chicken flavor and meat volatiles at unspecified concentrations (Shahidi et al. 1986). 1,4-Dioxane was also identified in volatile flavor compounds from fried chicken (Tang et al. 1983); however, no concentration levels were reported. Chung et al. (1983) identified 1,4-dioxane in the volatile components of tomato fruit juices and tomato fruit juices products by mass spectrometry, although levels of 1,4-dioxane were not quantified. 1,4-Dioxane was formed in trillnoloin (a component of fat oil used in deep-frying foods) after deep-fry heating (Chang et al. 1978). However, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane was not specified. Odor from cooked small shrimp was reported to contain 1,4-dioxane at unquantified levels (Choi et al. 1983). Sanceda et al. (1984) detected 1,4-dioxane in Patis, a Philippine fermented fish sauce, which is a commonly used food condiment in the diet of Southeast Asian people. It also may be readily available in some gourmet food stores in the United States. The concentration of 1,4-dioxane in patis was not specified. No further information on the detection of 1,4-dioxane in foods was located.

Food additives have been reported to contain 1,4-dioxane, although current levels were unavailable. For example, polysorbate 60 and polysorbate 80, which are used as food additives, have historically been found to contain 1,4-dioxane (Birkel et al. 1979). Polysorbate 60 and polysorbate 80 are produced from the polymerization of polyoxyethylene. Levels of 1,4-dioxane in these compounds have been reported to range from 4.8 to 6.0 ppm (mg/L) and from 5.3 to 5.8 ppm (mg/L), respectively. No further information on the levels of 1,4-dioxane in food additives was located.

In the FDA Cosmetic Handbook, it was reported that *cosmetics containing as ingredients ethoxylated surface active agents, i.e., detergents, foaming agents, emulsifiers, and certain solvents identifiable by the prefix, word or “PEG,” “Polyethylene,” “Polyethylene glycol,” “Polyoxyethylene,” “-eth-,” or “-oxynol-,” may be contaminated with 1,4-dioxane.* It is also reported that *it (1,4-dioxane) may be removed from ethoxylated compounds by means of vacuum stripping at the end of the polymerizations process without unreasonable increase in raw material cost (FDA 1992).*

Although manufacturers are able to remove 1,4-dioxane from ethoxylated raw materials by vacuum stripping, studies by FDA indicate that some ethoxylated raw materials may still contain 1,4-dioxane at significant levels. Since 1979, FDA has conducted periodic surveys of levels of 1,4-dioxane in

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ethoxylated raw materials used in cosmetic products and finished cosmetic products (Black et al. 2001). In 1997, the average concentration of 1,4-dioxane in ethoxylated raw materials used in cosmetic products was 348 ppm (range, 45–1,102 ppm). In previous years, the average concentrations of 1,4-dioxane were 49 ppm (1979), 207 ppm (1980), 71 ppm (1993), and 180 ppm (1996). The average concentration of 1,4-dioxane in ethoxylated alkyl sulfate surfactants were reported to be 229 ppm (range, 71–580 ppm), 226 ppm (range, 6–1,410 ppm), 80 ppm (range, 16–243 ppm), 188 ppm (range, 20–653 ppm), and 348 ppm (range, 45–1,102 ppm) in the years 1979, 1980, 1983, 1993, 1996, and 1997, respectively (Black et al. 2001).

Although industry has taken steps to reduce 1,4-dioxane in ethoxylated surfactants, some cosmetic and household products may contain 1,4-dioxane at levels >10 ppm. For example, EPA (1992) examined 1,159 household products for chemical contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane. In one of six samples of laundry presoak spray analyzed, 1,4-dioxane was detected at a concentration of 15.0 w/w %. In an FDA survey of cosmetic finished products in the United States, the average concentrations of 1,4-dioxane were reported to be 50 ppm (range, 2–279 ppm), 19 ppm (range, 2–36 ppm), 2 ppm (range, 1–8 ppm) for the years 1981, 1982, and 1983, respectively (Black et al. 2001). After a 10-year break, FDA resumed its surveys of cosmetic finished products in 1992. A total of 99 products were analyzed for 1,4-dioxane between 1992 and 1997. In products analyzed since 1994, FDA focused on children's shampoos and bubble baths because children's products are typically formulated with ethoxylated raw materials. FDA observed that the downward trend in the levels of 1,4-dioxane previously observed in products analyzed in the late 1980s was no longer evident in the products analyzed in the 1990s. The average concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in cosmetic finished products were reported to be 41 ppm (range, 5–141 ppm), 79 ppm (range, 50–112 ppm), 45 ppm (range, 20–107 ppm), 74 ppm (range, 42–90 ppm), 14 ppm (range, 6–34 ppm), and 19 ppm (range, 6–34 ppm) in the years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 (Black et al. 2001). These data suggest that not all raw materials producers are effectively controlling the levels of 1,4-dioxane, especially in children's products. Household laundry detergents, shampoos, soaps, skin cleansers were found to contain 1,4-dioxane at levels ranging from 6 to 160 ppm (Gelman Sciences 1989a, 1989b). In Denmark, cosmetic products and dishwashing detergent, which used polyethoxylated surfactants, contained 1,4-dioxane at levels ranging from 0.3 to 96 ppm and from 1.8 to 65 ppm, respectively (Rastogi 1990).

1,4-Dioxane has been reported to be a contaminant in other consumer products. For example, 1,4-dioxane was found to be an impurity in two household adhesive products from the United States at concentrations of 0.5 and 1–3% (NIH 2004). 1,4-Dioxane was detected in 2 of 62 samples of household

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adhesives at concentrations of 1.0 w/w% for boot cement and 2.8 w/w% for universal cement (EPA 1992).

1,4-Dioxane is formed from the breakdown of ethylene glycol. In 1988, consumer anti-freeze products contained 1,4-dioxane at concentrations ranging from 100 to 3,400 ppb (Gelman Sciences 1989c). Radiator fluids have been found to contain slightly higher levels of 1,4-dioxane at concentrations ranging from 10 to 22,000 ppb (Gelman Sciences 1989c).

1,4-Dioxane was detected in 39 household aerosol products from Japan. In each of these samples, TCA was detected. The range of 1,4-dioxane concentration was 0.17–2.25% (Mori et al. 1992). A good correlation between the contents of 1,4-dioxane and TCA suggest that TCA containing 3% of 1,4-dioxane was used historically in the manufacture of aerosol products. However, because the use of TCA has been phased out in the United States since 1996, current levels of 1,4-dioxane in aerosol products should be limited.

Levels of 1,4-dioxane in human tissues and body fluids are not available for individuals from the United States. 1,4-Dioxane was identified but not quantified in human feces obtained from a healthy male individual from the former Soviet Union (Dmitriev et al. 1985). However, no information was provided in this study on the possible source of 1,4-dioxane in this feces sample or whether or not the individual was occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane.

Krotosznski et al. (1979) found 1,4-dioxane in the expired air of 24.8% of the samples taken from 54 normal humans. The geometric mean concentration was $0.253 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This concentration is significantly higher than those reported in the ambient air studies in New Jersey (see Section 6.4.1). However, no attempt was made to correlate the concentrations in the expired air with those found in the ambient air, nor was there an attempt to correlate these concentrations with life style or occupational exposures. Conkle et al. (1975) also found 1,4-dioxane ($0.41 \mu\text{g}/\text{hour}$) in the expired air of one out of eight volunteers. These authors speculated that 1,4-dioxane was a normal metabolic product, although neither this study nor the former monitoring study cited above had undertaken rigorous steps to prevent contamination with 1,4-dioxane during the analysis.

In 1989, 1,4-dioxane was detected in highway rest-stop radiator boil-over pools at concentrations ranging from <10 to 2,300 ppb (Gelman Sciences 1989a, 1989b).

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6.5 GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE

The primary routes of human exposure to 1,4-dioxane for the general population are inhalation of 1,4-dioxane in air, ingestion of contaminated food and drinking water containing 1,4-dioxane, and dermal contact with consumer products. Because 1,4-dioxane may be found in tap water, human exposure to 1,4-dioxane may also occur during activities such as showering, bathing, and laundering. Exposure to 1,4-dioxane in tap water through inhalation during showering or other indoor activities can result in higher exposures to 1,4-dioxane compared to ingestion of drinking water.

Recent levels of 1,4-dioxane in air are not available. In 1984, the concentration of 1,4-dioxane ranged from 0.1 to 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in ambient air sampled from the United States. Assuming that an adult breathes approximately 20 m^3 of air per day, the inhalation exposure would be 2–8 μg of 1,4-dioxane per day. Current exposure from air may likely be less than this value. This value may be somewhat higher for persons living near sources of 1,4-dioxane emission. Individuals employed at industrial facilities that produce, process, and use 1,4-dioxane will also have higher exposures. Similarly, 1,4-dioxane is taken into the body by ingestion of drinking water. Current levels of 1,4-dioxane in drinking water are not available. In the 1970s, drinking waters in the United States were reported to contain 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ of 1,4-dioxane (Kraybill 1978). Using this concentration and the consumption rate as 2 L/day, the 1,4-dioxane intake from drinking water would be 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$. Current exposure from drinking water may likely be less than this value. Recently, a Total Diet Study in Japan determined the intake of 1,4-dioxane in food based on the average intake of food in the Kanto area of Japan (Nishimura et al. 2004). The 1,4-dioxane content of 12 food groups ranged between 2 and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. From these results, the total daily intake of 1,4-dioxane was calculated to be 0.440 μg . This study indicates that the amount of 1,4-dioxane intake contributed from food is very low. FDA has estimated the exposure to 1,4-dioxane from the use of polyethylene glycol mono-isotridecyl ether sulfate, sodium salt as a surfactant in adhesives intended for use in contact with food. Based on a daily diet of 3 kg, exposure to 1,4-dioxane has been estimated to be 0.2 ppb of daily diet or 0.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{per person}/\text{per day}$ (FDA 1998). Since most consumer products (e.g., detergents, shampoos, and cosmetic products) containing 1,4-dioxane may be diluted with water prior to application, dermal exposure is expected to be small in comparison to other exposures such as air, drinking water, and food.

Occupational exposure of individuals involved in the production, processing, or use of 1,4-dioxane may result from inhalation or dermal exposure (De Rosa et al. 1996). The National Occupational Exposure Survey (1981–1983) indicated that 86,489 individuals, including 30,542 women, potentially were

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exposed to 1,4-dioxane (NIOSH 1977). This estimate was derived from observations of the actual use of the compound (25% of total observations) and the use of trade name products known to contain the compound (75%). The National Occupation Hazard Survey conducted by NIOSH from 1972 to 1974, estimated that 334,000 individuals were occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane, including 100,000 individuals occupationally exposed as a result of 1,4-dioxane used as a stabilizer in TCA (NIOSH 1976). In 1977, NIOSH estimated that 2,500 individuals were occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane, in addition to the 100,000 individuals occupationally exposed to both TCA and 1,4-dioxane (NIOSH 1977). OSHA reported that as many as 466,000 individuals may be occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane.

Individuals employed at chemical plants may be exposed to 1,4-dioxane as solvent vapors (Buffler et al. 1978). Between the period of 1994–1996, a survey in Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan was conducted to determine the levels of solvent vapors in 196 workplace areas. The survey was repeated every 6 months during this 3-year period. 1,4-Dioxane was reported in 6 of 1,176 cases at median and maximum concentrations of 0.5 and 0.8 ppm, respectively. 1,4-Dioxane was only detected in work areas where degreasing, cleaning, and wiping operations had occurred (Yasugi et al. 1998). During 1979, industrial hygiene monitoring was conducted at several plants which produced alcohol ethoxysulfate salts. Time-weighted-average concentrations of 1,4-dioxane in air samples collected for five different jobs and locations within these plants were at or below the detection limit of <0.1 ppm. A maximum TWA concentration of 0.4 ppm reported in this monitoring study (Shell Oil Co. 1988). 1,4-Dioxane and HEAA were detected in the urine of individuals occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane. Individuals were exposed to a time-weighted average concentration of 1.6 ppm 1,4-dioxane for 7.5 hours. The mean concentration of 1,4-dioxane and HEAA in urine samples from exposed individuals at the end of each workday were 3.5 and 414 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (0.31 and 36.5 mg/L), respectively (Young et al. 1976).

Individuals involved in the manufacture of ethoxylated chemicals may be exposed to 1,4-dioxane from its occurrence as a by-product, and in particular during the stripping process, which is carried out to remove 1,4-dioxane from certain ethoxylated chemicals (mainly surfactants and emulsifiers) (EC 2002). Because of the large quantities of TCA were previously used, past occupational exposure to 1,4-dioxane (used as a stabilizer) may have been significant, particularly in metal degreasing operations. As the manufacture of TCA is currently restricted, only limited exposure from this exposure source is expected to occur.

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6.6 EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN

This section focuses on exposures from conception to maturity at 18 years in humans. Differences from adults in susceptibility to hazardous substances are discussed in Section 3.7, Children's Susceptibility.

Children are not small adults. A child's exposure may differ from an adult's exposure in many ways. Children drink more fluids, eat more food, breathe more air per kilogram of body weight, and have a larger skin surface in proportion to their body volume. A child's diet often differs from that of adults. The developing human's source of nutrition changes with age: from placental nourishment to breast milk or formula to the diet of older children who eat more of certain types of foods than adults. A child's behavior and lifestyle also influence exposure. Children crawl on the floor, put things in their mouths, sometimes eat inappropriate things (such as dirt or paint chips), and spend more time outdoors. Children also are closer to the ground, and they do not use the judgment of adults to avoid hazards (NRC 1993).

Specific information on the exposure of children to 1,4-dioxane does not exist. As for adults in the general population, small exposures occur from the normal ingestion of food and drinking water, inhaling air, and dermal contact with contaminated consumer products (e.g., containing ethoxylated surfactants). Home exposures may result from the unintentional consumption of consumer products (e.g., baby shampoo, household detergents) containing 1,4-dioxane. However, the extent of this possible exposure route in the general population is unknown.

6.7 POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES

Individuals who consume drinking water from contaminated wells may be exposed to higher levels of 1,4-dioxane. For example, groundwater has been reported to be contaminated with 1,4-dioxane in the following locations: Ann Arbor, Michigan; San Jose, California; and Menlo Park, California (DeRosa et al. 1996; Mohr 2004). The extent of 1,4-dioxane exposure for these populations is not known.

Individuals employed in occupations involved in the manufacture, processing, and handling and use of 1,4-dioxane will have potentially higher exposures to this chemicals. In addition, individuals involved in analytical science and research and development activities, which may utilize 1,4-dioxane as a solvent, may be exposed to higher levels of 1,4-dioxane.

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6.8 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE

Section 104(i)(5) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR (in consultation with the Administrator of EPA and agencies and programs of the Public Health Service) to assess whether adequate information on the health effects of 1,4-dioxane is available. Where adequate information is not available, ATSDR, in conjunction with NTP, is required to assure the initiation of a program of research designed to determine the health effects (and techniques for developing methods to determine such health effects) of 1,4-dioxane.

The following categories of possible data needs have been identified by a joint team of scientists from ATSDR, NTP, and EPA. They are defined as substance-specific informational needs that if met would reduce the uncertainties of human health assessment. This definition should not be interpreted to mean that all data needs discussed in this section must be filled. In the future, the identified data needs will be evaluated and prioritized, and a substance-specific research agenda will be proposed.

6.8.1 Identification of Data Needs

Physical and Chemical Properties. Sufficient information about the chemical and physical properties (i.e., log K_{ow} , log K_{oc} , Henry's law constant, vapor pressure, etc.) of 1,4-dioxane are available to permit estimation of its environmental fate (see Table 4-2).

Production, Import/Export, Use, Release, and Disposal. According to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. Section 11023, industries are required to submit substance and release and off-site transfer information to the EPA. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), which contains this information for 2002, became available in July 2004. This database is updated yearly and should provide a list of industrial production facilities and emissions. Additional information is needed on the sources of 1,4-dioxane contamination at contaminated sites.

1,4-Dioxane is currently produced in the United States, although current production volumes are not available. Information on current and future production levels of 1,4-dioxane are needed to determine whether the risk for human exposure to 1,4-dioxane is significant. Although, 1,4-dioxane is not widely used in the home, environment, or most workplaces, it can be present as a contaminant in materials that are found or used in these environments and, therefore, human exposures to 1,4-dioxane can occur. 1,4-Dioxane is used primarily as a solvent for chemical processing (e.g., adhesives, cleaning and

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detergent preparations, cosmetics, deodorant fumigants, emulsions and polishing compositions, fat, lacquers, pulping of wood, varnishes, waxes). 1,4-Dioxane has also been reported to be used in the production processes of following product categories: pharmaceuticals/pesticides, magnetic tape, and adhesives. 1,4-Dioxane has been found as an impurity in cosmetics, household and industrial detergents, and pharmaceuticals due to its occurrence as a by-product in ethoxylated emulsifiers. 1,4-Dioxane may be present as a contaminant of food. However, no information is available that quantifies actual levels of 1,4-dioxane in food. Water is the most likely media to be contaminated with significant quantities of 1,4-dioxane (EC 2003; Hartung 1989).

Pure or nearly pure 1,4-dioxane is disposed of by incineration. It is expected that 1,4-dioxane is completely destroyed by this method. Aqueous solutions of 1,4-dioxane are disposed in waste water treatment facilities. Because 1,4-dioxane is resistant to biodegradation, complete mineralization of this chemical is not efficient. Thus, there may be need to develop effective methods of disposal for aqueous solutions of 1,4-dioxane. Additional information is needed on the amounts of 1,4-dioxane disposed of by each method.

Environmental Fate. 1,4-Dioxane is miscible in water and partitions primarily to the aqueous media in the environment. 1,4-Dioxane has high mobility in soil and has the potential to migrate into groundwater. In air, 1,4-dioxane will degrade by reaction with OH radicals with a half-life of 1–3 days (EPA 2000). 1,4-Dioxane has been found to be resistant to biodegradation in the environment (Alexander 1973; Dow Chemical Co. 1989; Fincher and Payne 1962; Heukelekian and Rand 1955; Mills and Stack 1954). 1,4-Dioxane is expected to persist in both water and soil.

Bioavailability from Environmental Media. 1,4-Dioxane is absorbed following inhalation, oral, and dermal contact (see Chapter 3). However, 1,4-dioxane is not bioconcentrated.

Food Chain Bioaccumulation. Because 1,4-dioxane is miscible in water, it is not bioconcentrated in plants, aquatic organisms, or animals. However, bioaccumulation in plants may occur by transpiration. 1,4-Dioxane is not biomagnified to any extent in prey organisms.

Exposure Levels in Environmental Media. 1,4-Dioxane has been detected in air, water, and foodstuff. Although historical data are available (e.g., 1980s and earlier), recent information on the levels of 1,4-dioxane in these media are not available. Reliable monitoring data for the levels of 1,4-dioxane in contaminated media at hazardous waste sites are needed so that the information obtained on levels of

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1,4-dioxane in the environment can be used in combination with the known body burden of 1,4-dioxane to assess the potential risk of adverse health effects in populations living in the vicinity of hazardous waste sites. Estimates have been made for human intakes of 1,4-dioxane from air and drinking water. However, these estimates are based on historical monitoring data which may not be representative of current levels of 1,4-dioxane in environmental media. It is unclear how extensive the human exposure to 1,4-dioxane is indoors and from consumer products. Additional data that determines current levels of 1,4-dioxane in air, drinking water, food, and consumer products is necessary to assess human exposure to 1,4-dioxane.

Exposure Levels in Humans. 1,4-Dioxane has not been detected in the urine of individuals who are occupationally exposed to 1,4-dioxane (Young et al. 1976). Two studies conducted by Conkle et al. (1975) and Krotosznski et al. (1979) involving 54 and 8 volunteers, respectively, detected 1,4-dioxane in a small number of expired air samples collected from these volunteers, but the source of the measured 1,4-dioxane could not be determined because the studies did not adequately document lifestyle or occupation. No other biological monitoring studies have been done in populations surrounding hazardous waste sites or in the general population. This information is necessary for assessing the need to conduct health studies on these populations. No estimates have been made for human intake of 1,4-dioxane from various environmental media. This information is necessary for determining the routes of exposure to 1,4-dioxane from these various media.

Exposures of Children. Children are exposed to 1,4-dioxane in the same manner as adults. Exposure and body burden studies on children would be useful. Children who take frequent bubble baths may be exposed to higher levels of 1,4-dioxane than adults due to possible contamination of ethoxylated surfactants found in these commercial products. Additional studies are needed to determine whether this is a significant exposure route for children. It is not known whether children are different in their weight-adjusted intake of 1,4-dioxane. Additional studies would help to determine if children are more or less exposed to 1,4-dioxane compared to adults. Child health data needs relating to susceptibility are discussed in Section 3.12.2, Identification of Data Needs: Children's Susceptibility.

Exposure Registries. No exposure registries for 1,4-dioxane were located. This substance is not currently one of the compounds for which a sub-registry has been established in the National Exposure Registry. The substance will be considered in the future when chemical selection is made for sub-registries to be established. The information that is amassed in the National Exposure Registry facilitates

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the epidemiological research needed to assess adverse health outcomes that may be related to exposure to this substance.

Historically, 1,4-dioxane has been used as a stabilizer in TCA at concentrations up to 4%. Often 1,4-dioxane is present at sites where TCA has been found as a contaminant. TCA is currently one of the compounds for which a Subregistry has been established in the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Registry. The VOCs Registry is part of the National Exposure Registry (NER), which was created and is being maintained by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

6.8.2 Ongoing Studies

No ongoing studies were located as a result of a search of the Federal Research in Progress (FEDRIP 2004) database.